



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Diamond Tech's stone tiles may be used for interior and exterior wall and floor applications, tiles are suitable for both residential and commercial use.

Due to the nature of natural stone, variations of color and veining within the tile will occur and is not consider a flaw. Please open and inspect each box of stone tile upon delivery. Buyer is responsible for inspection and acceptance of the materials prior to installation.

## RECOMMENDED SUBSTRATES

Set the mosaic on a substrate that is rated to hold natural stone. This will include cement backer boards, concrete masonry units, brick/masonry, exterior grade plywood, traditional mud beds, etc. Consult a professional builder for rating requirements before starting the project. Insure the framing is structurally sound and up to code. Be sure the entire surface is level before installation. All surfaces must be sound, clean, and free of oil, waxes, frost, curing agents, form release agents and any other bond inhibiting contaminants. After the surface is completely clean, inspect the surface for any dips or bumps. Make all repairs necessary to make the surface level and smooth.

## SETTING MATERIALS

Before you begin, insure that the type of setting materials used is rated to hold the specific type of stone mosaic. Be sure to use non-staining setting materials and follow the manufacturer's instructions to make it ready to be troweled onto the surface.

## INSTALLATION

**IMPORTANT TO NOTE:** Diamond Tech recommends the installer work out of several boxes of tile at a time or shuffle tiles from several boxes. If the product has a directional grain, it will be indicated on the mounting surface with an arrow. It is important to make sure that all directional arrows are facing in the same direction when installing these products.

1. Shuffle the tiles from different boxes so variations in color are distributed throughout the installation.
2. Mix setting materials according to manufacturer's instructions.
3. Using no larger than a 1/4" x 1/4" inch square notched trowel or one suggested for the setting materials used, trowel out enough mortar or adhesive to cover the area to set the first few sections. When troweling the mortar, be sure that it is spread evenly. Thick spots will result in mortar bleeding up through the seams. Should this occur, mortar will need to be removed from the seams. Thin spots will result in stone mosaics not sticking at all. For best adhesion, cover the back of each individual or sheet of tile with a thin layer of mortar using the trowel.
4. Carefully place the first two to four sections of tile into place. If product is mesh-backed, place the tile **MESH-SIDE DOWN** into the setting material.
5. Using a level surface such as a wooden block and a rubber mallet, tap the sections into the setting material, avoid the outside edges adjacent to the next sections.
6. Press another section into the setting material, adjacent and flush against the previous tile. Doing so will prevent the seams from showing. Tap again with your flat level surface, this time pressing down on the seams between sections (this avoids "cupping") but again, avoiding the outside abutting edges (except for the edges that are against the outside wall or threshold).
7. Repeat this process for the next few sections, periodically examining the installation. If the seams are undetectable, the job has been done well. Seams are created by gaps in section placement, uneven (height) pieces along the edge of the seam, and stone mosaic not lining up within a section. The seams will need to be

re-worked between the sections as necessary to make them undetectable. To rework seams reset pieces on the seam to blend evenly.

8. Periodically use your level to insure tile height is consistent. Repeat steps until the stone tiles are set and seamless.
9. Allow setting material to cure according to the instructions on the setting material package.

### **SEALING TILE**

Once the stone is 100% set, clean once more with a vacuum. Apply the final coats of sealer following the manufacturer's directions.

### **GROUT THE MOSAIC:**

1. Apply a coat of quality penetrating sealer before grouting. Grouting a porous stone product without sealing may cause the stone to wick up the grout making clean-up difficult. Please note, sealers for natural stone are available through local hardware stores and tile retailers. Do not use a top coat, as it will change the color of the stone. Allow sealer to dry according to the manufacturer's directions.
2. Choose a grout color appropriate for the installation. For a seamless look, use a complimentary color. Mix grout according to manufacturer's directions.
3. Grout openings between tiles and sheets.
4. Clean the joints with a damp sponge taking care not to remove too much grout. A powder residue will appear. Buff this with a soft dry cloth.
5. After grouting, protect area from foot traffic and water exposure for at least 72 hours.
6. Once the stone is 100% haze-free, clean once more with a vacuum. Apply the final coats of sealer following the manufacturer's directions.

### **TILE CARE AND MAINTENANCE:**

Clean stone surfaces with a neutral cleaner designated safe for natural stone. Use a clean soft cloth for best results. **Do not** use more than the recommended amount of any cleaning product. Too much may leave a film, causing streaks. Change rinse water frequently. Do not use products that contain lemon, vinegar or other acids on marble, travertine or limestone as these can etch the surface of the stone.

**CAUTION:** Not all adhesives, cleaners, grouts and sealers are not equally suitable for all types of tiles. Check with a flooring and tile specialist for specific recommendation.

### **NOTES:**